

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A common platform computer-based method for repurposing an ontology, comprising:
  - creating an ontology mapping protocol;
  - 5 building a mapping tool based upon said ontology mapping protocol;
  - mapping said ontology onto said common platform using said mapping tool; and,
  - repurposing said ontology based upon said mapping.
2. A computer-based method for repurposing an ontology, comprising:
  - 10 creating an ontology mapping protocol;
  - mapping said ontology onto a common language using said ontology mapping protocol; and,
  - repurposing said ontology based upon said mapping.
- 15 3. A computer-based method for repurposing an ontology, comprising:
  - mapping said ontology onto a common language using an ontology mapping protocol;
  - and,
  - repurposing said ontology based upon said mapping.
- 20 4. A computer-based method for repurposing an ontology, comprising:
  - mapping said ontology onto a common language; and,
  - repurposing said ontology based upon said mapping.
5. A computer-based method for repurposing a first ontology, comprising:
  - 25 mapping said first ontology onto a common language; and,

repurposing said first ontology based upon said mapping, thereby creating a second ontology in a manner such that said second ontology maps back to said first ontology.

6. A computer-based method for repurposing a first ontology, comprising:
  - 5 mapping said first ontology onto a common language; and,  
repurposing said first ontology based upon said mapping and known repurposing limitations to create a second ontology, wherein said second ontology maps back to said first ontology.
- 10 7. A computer-based method for coordinating corroboration between at least two separate entities with respect to at least one ontology, comprising:  
controlling access rights of said at least two separate entities to parts of said at least one ontology; and,  
defining how said access rights are granted.
- 15 8. An apparatus for repurposing an ontology, comprising:  
means for creating an ontology mapping protocol;  
means for building a mapping tool based upon said ontology mapping protocol;  
means for mapping said ontology onto said common platform using said mapping  
20 tool; and,  
means for repurposing said ontology based upon said mapping.
9. An apparatus for repurposing an ontology, comprising:  
means for creating an ontology mapping protocol;

means for mapping said ontology onto a common language using said ontology mapping protocol; and,

means for repurposing said ontology based upon said mapping.

5    10.    An apparatus for repurposing an ontology, comprising:

means for mapping said ontology onto a common language using an ontology mapping protocol; and,

means for repurposing said ontology based upon said mapping.

10    11.    An apparatus for repurposing an ontology, comprising:

means for mapping said ontology onto a common language; and,

means for repurposing said ontology based upon said mapping.

12.    An apparatus for repurposing a first ontology, comprising:

15    means for mapping said first ontology onto a common language; and,

means for repurposing said first ontology based upon said mapping, thereby creating a second ontology in a manner such that said second ontology maps back to said first ontology.

13.    An apparatus for repurposing a first ontology, comprising:

20    means for mapping said first ontology onto a common language; and,

means for repurposing said first ontology based upon said mapping and known repurposing limitations to create a second ontology, wherein said second ontology maps back to said first ontology.

14. An apparatus for coordinating corroboration between at least two separate entities with respect to at least one ontology, comprising:

means for controlling access rights of said at least two separate entities to parts of said at least one ontology; and,

5 means for defining how said access rights are granted.